

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

James F. Carlin, Jr., Antimony Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: jcarlin@usgs.gov

Samir Hakim (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7955
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: shakim@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ANTIMONY IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2007

Consumption of primary antimony in the first quarter of 2007 was estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be 5% less than that in the fourth quarter of 2006 and 17% less than that in the first quarter of 2006. During the first 2 months of 2007, imports of all types of antimony totalled 4,420 metric tons (t), 19% less than in the comparable period of 2006. During the first 2 months of 2007, China was the leading supplier to the United States of antimony metal and antimony oxide, with Mexico ranking second for both materials.

Antimony prices remained fairly steady during the first quarter of 2007. The Platts Metals Week New York dealer price for antimony metal started the first quarter in the range of \$2.53 to \$2.58 per pound and rose slightly, ending the first quarter at \$2.57 to \$2.63 per pound.

In Australia, production of antimony concentrate was reported as being below target at Cambria Mining Ltd.'s (London, United Kingdom) deposit in Augusta. The firm had hoped to reach its targeted ore production of 5,000 metric tons per month during the first quarter, in view of having secured extra mining equipment and expanding its mine development team. The company's plant processed 4,300 t of antimony ore in the fourth quarter of 2006, producing 187 t of antimony-gold concentrate containing 56% antimony. It processed 1,030 t of antimony from its Augusta deposit in the State of Victoria in 2006 after production started in September 2006. All the concentrate is being sold under a contract to Zhongnan Antimony and Tungsten Trading Co. in China (Mining Journal, 2007).

U.S. Antimony Corp. (USAC) (Thompson Falls, MT) announced that its subsidiary Antimony de Mexico has leased a

mill site to process rock from the Coahuila antimony and silver deposit in the State of Queretaro, Mexico. Permitting of the mine and mill site were due to begin immediately. Components for the crushing plant and flotation mill were nearing completion at the USAC antimony facility in Thompson Falls, MT. Installation of the equipment at Vizarron was expected during early 2007. Mexican Government figures report that the Coahuila deposit has a resource of 1 million metric tons with a grade of 1.8% antimony and 8.1 troy ounces per metric ton silver. In August 2006, USAC announced that it had completed construction of its antimony smelting plant at the deposit site. The plant is designed to process antimony ores and concentrates and produce antimony metal and oxide along with silver and gold byproducts. The plant would treat mainly the Coahuila deposit, but other smelter feed is being negotiated from sources in Canada, Europe, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, and the United States (Platts Metals Week, 2006).

Update

On May 31 2007, the Platts Metals Week price for antimony was \$2.52 to \$2.56 per pound.

References Cited

- Mining Journal, 2007, Mixed fortunes for minor metals: Mining Journal, March 2, p. 4.
Platts Metals Week, 2006, U.S. Antimony leases mill site: Platts Metals Week, v. 77, no. 46, November 13, p. 12.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS¹

(Metric tons antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2006		2007
	Year ^p	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Production:			
Primary smelter ²	--	--	--
Secondary	W	W	W
Imports for consumption:	30,400	7,590 ^r	4,420 ³
Ore and concentrate	153	45 ^r	70 ³
Metal	7,260	2,070 ^r	1,060 ³
Oxide ⁴	23,000	5,480 ^r	3,290 ³
Exports:	4,470	1,290 ^r	554 ³
Metal, alloys, and scrap (gross weight)	959	252 ^r	109 ³
Oxide ⁴	3,510	1,040 ^r	445 ³
Consumption of primary antimony	9,540	2,390	2,260
Price: Average cents per pound ⁵	238.01	251.77	256.28
Stocks, end of period ⁶	XX	1,890 ^r	2,030

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

²Nearly all primary smelter output is antimony trioxide.

³Data for January and February only; March data were not available at time of publication.

⁴Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

⁵Source: Platts Metals Week. New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

⁶Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY
IN THE UNITED STATES¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2006 ^{r, 2}	2007 ²
	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Oxide	1,480	1,610
Other ³	409	420
Total	1,890	2,030

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents who held 42% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2005.

³Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY^{1,2}

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2006		2007
	Year ^p	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Oxide	7,350	1,900	1,680
Other ³	2,190	487	588
Total	9,540	2,390	2,260

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Estimated 100% coverage based quarterly respondents and respondents who consumed 73% of the total antimony in 2005.

³Includes ores and concentrates, metal, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 4
CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF MATERIAL
PRODUCED¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2006		2007
	Year ^p	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Metal ²	W	W	W
Nonmetal ³	W	W	W
Flame-retardants:			
Plastics	490	139	96
Other ⁴	559	113	122
Total	1,050	252	218
Reported consumption	2,920	712	710
Total consumption ⁵	9,540	2,390	2,260

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Reported consumption." XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

³Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metals and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

⁴Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

⁵Estimated 100% coverage based on quarterly respondents and respondents who consumed 73% of the total antimony in 2005.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2006			2007		
	Year ^p	December	Fourth quarter ²	January	February	January-February
Ore and concentrate:						
Bolivia	130	22	45	11	15	26
Other	24	--	--	40	4	44
Total	153	22	45	51	19	70
Metal:						
China	5,070	634	1,650	258	316	575
Mexico	800	79	170	225	12	236
Peru	846	55	163	36	37	73
Other	543	54	86	153	19	172
Total	7,260	822	2,070	672	384	1,060
Oxide: ³						
Belgium	1,680	179	508	165	129	294
China	10,600	1,520	3,010	800	910	1,710
Mexico	8,780	560	1,920	701	522	1,220
Other	1,910	19	38	54	9	62
Total	23,000	2,280	5,480	1,720	1,570	3,290
Grand total	30,400	3,120	7,590	2,440	1,970	4,420
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	47	--	13	--	--	--

^pPreliminary. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²May include revisions to prior months data.

³Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.